

ORIG: George A. Carver, Jr.

UNIT: O/DCI/SAVA

EXT: [REDACTED]

DATE: 12 November 1969

MESSAGE FORM

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CITE DIRECTOR [REDACTED]

YO

SAIGON



1. MR. DON OBERDORFER, NOW ON STAFF OF WASHINGTON POST, IS PROCEEDING SAIGON IN NEAR FUTURE FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH. WHILE THERE, HE WILL DO GENERAL REPORTING FOR POST CONCENTRATING ON PACIFICATION. HE WILL ALSO TRY TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME AS HE CAN GATHERING MATERIAL FOR BOOK HE IS WRITING.

2. BOOK IS ANALYTIC IN-DEPTH STUDY OF 1968 TET OFFENSIVE, INCLUDING COMMUNIST PLANNING, PREPARATIONS AND OBJECTIVES, WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED DURING OFFENSIVE ITSELF, ITS AFTERMATH AND ITS NET IMPACT ON AND CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. OBERDORFER BELIEVES TET 1968 WAS REAL WATERSHED DIVIDE IN CURRENT VIETNAMESE HISTORY THAT HAS

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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SECRET

downgrading and
declassificationAUT. COORDINATING
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SECRET

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CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

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PAGE TWO

CITE DIRECTOR

TO

NEVER RECEIVED SERIOUS, OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS IT DESERVES.

3. OBERDORFER HAS VERY SOLID RECORD WITH

25X1

HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN BALANCED, FAIR AND DISCREET IN SENSE

THAT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HE HAS NEVER BETRAYED A CONFIDENCE

25X1

OR VIOLATED BACKGROUND BRIEFING GROUND RULES. AT

25X1

[REDACTED]

4. OBERDORFER ASKED

FOR NAME OF SOMEONE IN

25X1

SAIGON MISSION WHOM HE COULD TALK TO ABOUT POST DUTIES AND

HIS BOOK RESEARCH. WE SUGGESTED AMBASSADOR COLBY AND

AS BEST POINTS OF INITIAL CONTACT.

CAN HENCE

25X1

ANTICIPATE VISIT AND STATION CAN PLAY BY EAR FROM THERE ON

AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE IT WISHES TO PROVIDE.

END OF MESSAGE

Mr. Goodwin

C/VNO

C

RS

C/FE
RELEASING OFFICER

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